



GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2007: "PREPARE THE WAY"

Issue 7

Friday, 11 May 2007

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Last week the college conducted the Year 7 2008 information evening. The evening was attended by over 200 people who were given enrolment information and insights into our college. One of the most pleasing aspects of the evening was the willingness of so many of the present students to promote the college in such a positive manner. I thank both the teachers and students who were involved in the evening for their contribution to such a positive experience. I also thank those parents who attended the evening and were most complimentary after proceedings. I remind parents that applications for 2008 close on Friday May 25th.

Last Sunday, I had the pleasure of attending the Good Shepherd Parish Community Mass and Food Day. This proved to be a wonderful community event which reflected the spirit alive in the parish. Unfortunately, the event was tinged with sadness as Bishop Julian Porteous announced that Fr Joseph would not be continuing as parish priest at Good Shepherd Parish. For the time being the parish will be administered by Fr Pat Hurley from Holy Spirit Parish. However the parish will continue to operate as a separate entity. I would like to thank Fr Joseph for his support of Good Samaritan and his generosity in his dealings with us. I am sure that everyone will join with me in wishing him well in the future.

At present the college is undertaking a review of the existing homework policy. The ideas of staff, students and parents are being sought to provide the most appropriate and consistent approach to homework. If any parents would like to contribute to the survey I ask that you have your child collect a survey from the college office.

I remind parents that some of the aims of homework at Good Samaritan are to:

- Encourage students to develop responsibility for their own education
- Allow learning outside of the classroom
- Ensure that work taught in class is thoroughly learnt and practised
- Provide opportunities for extension work
- Provide opportunities for students to work alone, to allow them to work through problems and learn self-discipline
- Reveal to the student their weaknesses in studies, so students can seek help where necessary
- Prepare the student for future lessons
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's education.

With the above in mind, it is essential that students are given time to complete homework as well as to view homework as a priority. Too often students are willing to make excuses or avoid completing homework rather than seeing the value of the exercise. I ask parents to ensure that homework is completed and to reinforce the fact that all homework is of benefit to students.

Last Tuesday, the students in Year 7 and 8 sat for the SNAP test. The Year 8 students were tested in order to assess their progress in the area of numeracy since taking the test in 2006. There has been increased emphasis on numeracy development since Term 2 last year and the college will now be able to assess the impact of this on student performance.

On May 15, the college will conduct its Annual Athletics Carnival to which all parents are invited. I emphasise that the athletics carnival is a compulsory school day and all students are expected to be in attendance.

This Sunday is Mothers' Day which affords a time to acknowledge and celebrate all mothers. Mothers often give so much to their children in the way of love, care and support which we take for granted. It is a pity that in many cases this acknowledgement only occurs once a year. I would hope that we all appreciate and acknowledge our mothers at every opportunity.

Blessing Prayer for Mothers

God of Love, listen to this prayer

Bless the mothers of our families

Bless them with the strength of your spirit

They who have taught their children

how to stand and how to walk

Bless them with the melody of Your love

They who have shared how to speak

How to sing and how to pray

Bless them today with joy love laughter and

pride in their children

God Bless all Mothers

During this month we also honour a special mother, Mary. May is the month that is traditionally set aside by the Church as a time of devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church. Mary is our example of one who listened and responded to the call of God. I encourage everyone to pray Marian prayers, especially during the month of May.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio

Principal

From the Acting Assistant Principal

Uniform

Students and their parents are reminded about the requirements of the college winter uniform. As the cooler months approach, students are to have only white undergarments under their school shirts and blouses. The undergarment should not be visible on the sleeves. All students, except senior girls, are required to wear a tie. Scarves are permissible in white and black only and all students are required to wear the college blazer to and from school. In regards to the sports uniform, students are required to have a tracksuit; both pants and jacket. Even though during sports activities students will often require only their shorts and top, they must wear the full tracksuit to and from school on sports days and on those days that students have permission to wear their sports uniform for practical lessons. Students are not to wear the school jumper as the outer layer with the sports uniform. In really cold weather, students may wear the jumper under the tracksuit jacket with their sports uniform.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum on the school premises is banned. Students found chewing gum will be issued with a letter outlining the two options of: 3 cleaning detentions or a \$25 cleaning fine.

We are asking for parents continued support on this matter by ensuring that your sons and daughters do not bring chewing gum to school.

Mr R Grech

Acting Assistant Principal

Year 8 Medieval Day

"Tom (the presenter) made studying Medieval History an amazing and unique experience."
Zoe Tishler

As a conclusion to the History unit studied in Term 1, Year 8, participated in Medieval Day over Wednesday and Friday of this week. The presentations and hands-on activities were a great way for the students to experience some of the content learned, and to increase their understanding of the legacy and significance of historical periods.

"Tom had a great knowledge of History and he expressed it all in an entertaining way. I have learned many things from his role play".
Alyssa Cook

The students listened to Tom who discussed everything from the Battle of Hastings to the crusades, and enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and act out what he was describing.

"Tom was very intelligent and had a very broad knowledge of Medieval History."
Billy McGee

After recess students learned about and created their own heraldry, watched a jester, participated in a Squires Run and the day finally ended with a chance to take a closer look at the weapons and outfits Tom brought with him. Luckily, only a few people ended up in the pillory!

"Tom was very entertaining. Medieval History is more fun having it role-played."
Genevieve Fonti

"His knowledge of Medieval History is very extensive. He was a bit spontaneous and kind of startling at times with his sudden outbursts!"
Hong Le

"Tom was very good at teaching about the Medieval era through acting" *Natalie Perre*

Thank you to all Year 8 students who participated so well and made the two days great learning experiences.

Ms K Morrissey Year 8 History Teacher

Parenting Corner

As Mother's Day approaches I wanted to somehow celebrate all that mothers do for your families and I came across this PRAYER OF COMPASSION which I pray for all you wonderful MOTHERS out there who walk this journey each day.

We walk with others who hurt and ache. As we do so, keep us closely united with your, Healing Presence, so that our hearts will always be WARM with COMPASSION.

We walk with ourselves in our own joys and sorrows. May we look upon our own selves with love, with a belief that we, too, NEED TENDERING and CARE.

We walk with our FAMILIES, communities, loved ones and friends. Our hearts can be closely connected in good times and in bad. May we draw STRENGTH from you and be open to the ways in which you call us to be there for them.

We walk with OUR WORLD, a world that is filled with pain and grief, with BEAUTY and GRANDEUR. We are CHILDREN of the UNIVERSE. Remind us that who we are and what we do affects our sisters and brothers, the earth and all creatures in any form.

We walk with wounds yet to be healed. Do not let us run from what we need to face. Grant us the COURAGE to let go of whatever keeps us from being HEALED. Help us TRUST you with our lives, God.

We walk with scars that tell of the tough times we have had. Our wounds can be our teachers. God of WISDOM, draw us to QUIET times of REFLECTION so that we can see and accept the truths that our wounded times have offered to us.

We walk in your presence God. May our INNER VISION keep us closely bonded with you. Assure us often that we are all part of the BODY OF CHRIST. When we meet another, we meet you. May the treasure of our union with you ENERGISE us and RENEW us as we reach out to others. Amen.

God bless each of you MOTHERS with all these gifts and have a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

Sr Marj Carroll

Science Competition

Yesterday all our Year 7 to 10 students sat the University of NSW Science Competition. It gave our students an opportunity to highlight their individual skills. It also will give the Science Department an opportunity to compare the results from this test to the previous years. We will be able to ascertain our strengths and weakness and ensure we work towards assisting our students to become better equipped to manage our year eleven and twelve courses and our better students are given opportunities to be further extended.



WYD 2008 Corner 430 DAYS TO GO!

Each month, the WYD website publishes a prayer campaign with a different theme or focus.

In this, the month of May, our prayers focus on an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, our homeland Australia. We ask that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us, strengthen us, enlighten our minds and inflame our hearts so that we may be great witnesses to the mighty power of God.

WYD Prayer for MAY 2007:

*Holy Spirit,
We ask for an outpouring of your graces,
blessings and gifts,
Upon those who do not believe, that they may believe;
Upon those who are doubtful and confused, that they may understand;
Upon those who are lukewarm or indifferent, that they may be transformed;
Upon those who are constantly living in a state of sin, that they may be converted;
Upon those who are weak, that they may be strengthened;
Upon those who are holy, that they may persevere.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

In Other News:

On **May 18-20**, **A YOUTH RETREAT** will be held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. It is a time for like-minded 18 to 35 year olds to discern God's will, deepen their faith, pray and grow in allegiance to Jesus Christ. Led by Fr Greg Homeming OCD. To book ring the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre on (02) 9603 1433. For further information, please log onto the website. www.wyd2008.org.au.

On **Sunday July 1 2007** (first Sunday of the July School holidays), the **OFFICIAL ARRIVAL OF THE WYD CROSS AND ICON** in Australia will be celebrated. Join us as we officially welcome the Cross and Icon in Australia. With a Youth Concert, Youth Mass and Youth Festivities all rolled into one EVENT. This is one massive event you wouldn't want to miss! Keep this date free in your diaries - more information to follow!

Miss A Darmody
WYD 2008 Co-ordinator

Southern Sydney Combined Catholic Colleges' Representative

The following students are to be congratulated on their selection into Southern Sydney Combined Catholic Colleges Representative Sport Teams. These teams will play in NSWCCC Competitions throughout the term.

Thomas Kennedy	Open Boys Touch
	Open Boys Rugby League
Anthony Montague	Open Boys Rugby League
Greg Campbell	Open Boys Rugby League
John Favretti	Open Boys Soccer
Mitchell Mallia	Open Boys Soccer
Jennifer Papallo	Open Girls Soccer
Bianca Adattomo	Open Girls Soccer
Haylee Ingle	Open Girls Soccer

Ms D Sosimenko, Sports Co-ordinator

Careers News

Year 12 Careers Presentations

Each Tuesday afternoon during term 2, Year 12 students have been attending Careers presentations by various individuals and organisations. The range of topics was determined following a survey of student preferences and consideration by the Careers Committee. To date, students have been addressed by the Australian Taxation Office regarding Tax File Numbers, HECS and HELP schemes, Australian Catholic University and most recently Tim Brunero, union activist, concerning enrolling to vote and citizenship. Tim's video of his recent trip to East Timor highlighted the struggle for civil rights that has occurred on our country's northern border.

Year 10 Careers Testing

During this week Year 10 students sat a number of tests administered by Robert Allwell and Associates. The results of these tests for literacy, numeracy and career preference will be used to generate individual portfolios for each student that will be central to the "Exploring Your Career Options" program this term. On Friday, June 22nd all Year 10 and 12 students will attend the National Careers and Employment Expo at Darling Harbour Convention Centre.

University of Sydney Year 10 Information Evenings

The University of Sydney will hold Yr 10 subject selection/university info evenings on June 4, 6 & 12 to assist Yr 10 students & parents with decisions about their future. ONLINE Registrations open 30/4. Phone: 1300 362 006 Email: info@psu.usyd.edu.au Website: <http://www.usyd.edu.au>

UMAT Universities Medical Aptitude Test

The UMAT will be held this year on Wednesday, July 25th only. Registration is now open until June 1st for students, in their final

year of high school who would like to gain entry to medicine, dentistry or medical science courses in 2008 that have a UMAT requirement. The registration fee is \$150.00, students can only register online at <http://umat.acer.edu.au>.

Study Medicine at Bond University in 2008

At Bond University you can study medicine without first completing an undergraduate degree and you'll qualify in less than five years with Bond's 3 semesters-per-year schedule. Information Sessions: Sydney (27/6) Melbourne (8/5) Gold Coast (21/5). For more information call Katie Gordon: (07) 5595 1119 Email: katie_gordon@bond.edu.au Website: <http://www.bond.edu.au>

A Day in the Life of a Uni Student at Notre Dame

Year 10-12 students are invited to explore their options at The University of Notre Dame Sydney on 6 July. Campus tours, info sessions on course & study options, morning tea & a BBQ are all included! Bookings: (02) 8204 4404 Email: sydney@nd.edu.au Website: <http://www.nd.edu.au>

UNSW Subject Selection Evening

UNSW will hold a subject selection evening for Year 10 students and their parents on May 30th. Subjects discussed will include HSC subject selection, assumed knowledge, HSC Plus and gaining entry at UNSW. Register at <http://www.year10.unsw.edu.au>

Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser

From the Curriculum Co-ordinator

Years 10 and 11 Examination Period

Years 10 and 11 examinations will commence on May 21 and conclude on June 1. Notes have been sent home to parents from their child's Year Co-ordinator outlining the college's requirements of the students during this period as well as examination procedures.

HSC Timetable

The Board of Studies has published the 2007 HSC timetable on their website. Included on the website are a number of links to assist both parents and students with tips for preparing for examinations as well as every HSC syllabus listed alphabetically for those who wish to access the outcomes or assessment guidelines. Another website that is a valuable study resource is the Charles Stuart University site found at www.hsc.csu.edu.au. At this site can be found some very useful information on study techniques and many listed subjects have stimulus material available.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

Year 10 Geography Excursion

Penrith Lakes & Warragamba Dam

On the 4th May, 10.1, 10.3 and 10.5 classes travelled to Penrith Lakes and Warragamba Dam. Half of 10.3 joined 10.5 and travelled to Penrith Lakes first. Our tour guide, Bob, sat us down, showed us a slide show and helped us fill in a cloze passage about the Penrith Lakes scheme, the quarrying process, canoeing and kayaking at Penrith Lakes. Bob then took us on a walk past a retention basins and the Regatta Lake, where we filled in the rest of our cloze passage. We all had a break and a bite to eat and then got back on the bus, where Neil guided us around the whole Penrith Lakes. We thanked Neil and Bob and set out for Warragamba Dam.

We exited the bus, had our lunch and travelled to the education centre. We were given more worksheets and showed another slide show, which taught us who manages our water supply, whereabouts the catchment areas are, and how we can contribute to saving water. We were driven to the dam where we stood on the wall and sketched what we saw. We graphed the water levels of Warragamba Dam over the past 40 years before finally being driven down to see where the water is forced when the Dam overflows.

We got back on the bus, one final time and made our way back to school after an enjoyable, educational day.

**By: Danielle Froio
Year 10**

On the 4th of May 2007, the Year 10 Geography classes had an excursion to Warragamba Dam and Penrith Lakes. The main aim of this activity was to explore the issues concerning Australia's water supply.

During our visit, we were informed about the problems associated with Australia's water as well as the solutions which individuals, communities and the government have applied to deal with the issues. Some of the problems cited were infestation of marine life, shortage of water sources, and management of the quality of water. In response to these problems, the nation applied strategies such as water recycling, water restrictions and the introduction of territorial species to lessen marine infestation and to improve the quality of water.

By: Luen Samonte, Year 10

GSCC Cross Country Report

The GSCC Cross Country was run over three afternoons in Term 2 week 2. The 12 and 13 year olds ran on Monday, 14 and 15 year olds ran on Wednesday and the 16 and 17 year olds ran on Thursday. The students ran around a 2 lap course at Hoxton Park Oval, which measured just under 3kms. Our age champions for 2007 are:

12 years old girls	Brittany Kirby	12 year old boys	Christopher El-Hayek
13 year old girls	Melissa Arndell	13 year old boys	Anthony Tomelic
14 year old girls	Bianca Adattini	14 year old boys	Carmelo Ussia
15 year old girls	Laura Beazley	15 year old boys	Gabriel Pisanu
16 year old girls	Haylee Ingle	16 year old boys	Joel Jarrett
		17 year old boys	Andrew El-Zakhem

The first six in each age group made it through to the Southern Sydney Regional Carnival, which will be held on Friday 11th May at the Western Sydney Recreation Area, Bossley Park. The team consists of the following students:

12 years old girls	Brittany Kirby	12 year old boys	Christopher El-Hayek John Pellegrini Jamel Saliadarre
13 year old girls	Melissa Arndell Natasha Pope Alyssa Cook Erika Brocklehurst Gabrielle Estrada Zoe Tishler	13 year old boys	Anthony Tomelic Jake Ingle Piero Sanchez Josh Bell Jake Mowle Brian Camilleri
14 year old girls	Bianca Adattini Jacqui Da Silva Lauren McMullan	14 year old boys	Carmelo Ussia Benjamin Ryzak Joseph Foti Sam Garzaniti
15 year old girls	Laura Beazley Jessica Ayoub Nicole Cabello	15 year old boys	Gabriel Pisanu Benjamin Mansilla Michael Sidoti Harley Da Silva Chris Vella
16 year old girls	Haylee Ingle Grace Gilvear	16 year old boys	Joel Jarrett Dario Rossi Anthony Belardo Jeremy Smith German Garvano Paul Tedone
		17 year old boys	Andrew El-Zakhem Luke Golubic Justin Tomas

As with any other sporting carnival, house points were awarded to those students who participated. Congratulations to La Salle house for winning the 2007 Cross Country carnival. The tally of points are listed below:

La Salle	49
Merici	42
Polding	41
Mackillop	32
Chisholm	30
De Paul	15

At the end of 2007, a Champion Sporting House will be awarded. The Sporting house point score includes the colleges' athletics, swimming and cross country carnivals. Students can also gain points for their house by being selected in MISA representative teams and by representing the college in Southern Sydney and NSWCCC sporting events. Below is the current Sporting House Champion Leader Board for 2007 after the swimming and cross country carnivals and the summer season of the MISA competition:

Current Place	House
1	La Salle
2	Merici
3	De Paul
4	Polding
5	Chisholm
6	Mackillop

Miss D Sosimenko, Sports Co-ordinator

Years 7, 8 and 9 Touch Football

The Years 7, 8 and 9 touch football side represented the college in the new MISA competition each Tuesday afternoon during sport this term. The boys have performed extremely well and went through the season undefeated. Last Tuesday they played Magdalene Catholic College in the final and in a hard fought game the boys won 7-6, thanks to strong performances from John Kennedy, Carmelo Ussia and Luke Turner.

The side: John Kennedy (c), Carmelo Ussia, Luke Turner, Daniel Madani, Branden Vella, Matthew Beazley, Daniel Cassone, Aldric Angeles, Thomas Napoletano, Jack Campbell, Ryan Evans and Nathaniel Frijo.

Mr S Zahra, Coach

Citizenship

On May 8, Tim Brunero visited Good Samaritan Catholic College to encourage Year 12 students to be involved in community organisations and enrol to vote.

Mr Brunero spoke to the students about the importance of community organisations in society, emphasising that they, as future citizens, have the potential to help others by joining groups that help others. He showed a video of his visit to Union Aid Abroad projects in East Timor to illustrate his point.

Anticipating "Enrol to Vote Week" in late May, Mr Brunero ended his talk with an explanation of the enrolling process and the importance of enrolling to vote. The students enjoyed his talk and the messages he conveyed.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 14 May Year 10 English Incursion
- 15th May GSCC Athletics Carnival
- 16th May Year 12 Standard English Excursion
Year 10 Allwell Testing (for absent students)
- 17th May Vaccination
Injection 1 Year 10 –12 Girls
- 21st May Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student
Interviews 3.30 pm to 7 pm
- 21st May to 1st June Year 10/11 Examinations
- 22nd May Trial MISA
- 24th May Mary Help of Christians Feast Day
Mass
- 30th & 31st May Year 7 2008 Interviews (pm)
- 25th May Safe Schools Week Begins

Catholic Education Office Parent Education Programs Term 2

Can we Help?

At the Sutherland Shire Learning Difficulties Support Group

We support parents and carers of children with any type of learning difficulty.

Phone/Fax: 9545 1505

Website: www.learningdifficulties.org.au

At The Edgeware Family Services

1-2-3 Magic on three Tuesdays

12th to 26th June at 10 am to 12 noon.

A popular parenting program developed by Dr Phelen, a psychologist from the US. The 3 sessions aim to assist parents to respond to and manage children's behaviour with less emotion. The modules will present information and ideas on development, setting limits and strategies to increase positive behaviour.

Cost \$15 waged, \$5 Concession/unwaged per session. Child minding: available at no cost.

Venue: STS Community Centre,
39 Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham.

Bookings: telephone 9519 6788.

At the Learning Links Office

12-14 Pindari Road, Peakhurst

Growing Up with More than one Language

Tuesday 22nd May 6 pm to 8.30 pm-Cost \$60

Art, Expression, Inclusion at Peakhurst

Wednesdays 23 & 30 May 6 pm to 8.30 pm

Cost \$116 to register telephone 9534 1710

Fairfield Patrician Brothers Old Boys' Reunion

The executive of the Old Boys' Union invites all ex-students to celebrate the 27th Anniversary of the Old Boys' Union.

Date: Friday, 25th May 2007

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Fairfield RSL
Horsley Function Room

A special invitation goes out to the boys who left the college in 1982 and 1987 and celebrate their 25th and 20th Anniversaries.

ALL EX-STUDENTS WELCOME

In order to organise catering, tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

\$45.00 per head (3 Course Meal)

Presentation by Br Aengus
2008 Bicentenary Preview

For tickets or further information please contact the college office on 9728 4488 or Mr Bob Sherack, President of the Old Boys Association on 02 4655 9028.

RSVP: 18th May 2007.

CANTEEN ROSTER

MONDAY 14.04.07	TUESDAY 15.05.07	WEDNESDAY 16.05.07	THURSDAY 17.05.07	FRIDAY 18.05.07
L Tomelic M Macri	Athletics Carnival	A Morozoff M Keir	S Lichaa N Bodagh	T Inzitari J Vartuli
MONDAY 21.05.07	TUESDAY 22.05.07	WEDNESDAY 23.05.07	THURSDAY 24.05.07	FRIDAY 25.05.07
E Hobby J Colley	L Fasogiannis V Sgro	L Dwart	L Vella C Smith N Michael	D Caruana D Segatto R Romeo



Journeying with Compassion